

Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations (MCCPTA)

Minutes of the Delegate Assembly on September 25, 2007 in the Auditorium of the Carver Educational Services Center

OPENING BUSINESS

Call to Order: President Jane de Winter called the meeting to order at 7:41 pm

Mission Statement: VP for Programs April Keyes read the PTA Mission Statement

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the Delegates Assembly on April 24, 2007 were reviewed. There was a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Dale Ryan reviewed the Budget vs. Actual for the 2006-2007 year. She then presented a budget for the 2007-2008 year. Dale then made a motion for approval of the Budget. Since it is being made on behalf of the Finance Committee, it does not require a second. The motion was approved by a voice vote. Dale then presented a Profit and Loss report from the start of the fiscal year (July 1st) to present. Finally, Dale reminded delegates about the need to file 990s.

Introduction of the Board of Directors

Jane de Winter introduced the Officers, Area Vice Presidents, and Cluster Coordinators. She reminded the Delegates that the cluster coordinators are an important resource for local PTAs.

Orientation

Jane polled the delegates concerning how many were new, how many had served more than five years, how many had attended a delegate training, and how many had children in elementary, middle, or high school. She encouraged Delegates to make sure they had a slot on the agenda at their local PTAs and that they were signed up on the MCCPTA listservs. She also encouraged them to review the Delegates Handbook that was distributed at the Spring Training. April Keyes reviewed many aspects of how the Delegate Assembly functions. Jane then followed that up with the process of reviewing a motion and answered questions from the delegates.

Programs

Jane mentioned that we will have programs before many of the meetings this year. The programs will run from 7 pm till 8 pm and then the meeting will begin at 8 pm on those nights.

RESOLUTIONS

Motion on MCPS Policy DBA—Budget Preparation and Procedures

Jane de Winter shared with the delegates that at the BOE Policy Committee Meeting on September 12, 2007 there were statements made that the recent revisions to Policy BFA, Policy on Policyssetting had made Policy DBA, Budget Preparation and Procedure no longer in effect. The belief put forward by the BOE Policy Committee Chair was that Policy DBA had been superseded by Policy BFA and should be rescinded. The State Board of Education, in reviewing an appeal involving the Learning Centers most recently, informed MCPS that Policy DBA was still in effect. This policy, which was enacted in 1961, requires the superintendent to announce any proposals for policy changes having an effect upon the budget, by September 30th. A copy of the full policy was provided in the folders for Delegates.

In reviewing the policy, Jane noted that if MCPS had followed this policy, it would have alleviated some of the difficulties parents have had advocating in the last few years. Therefore, Kay Romero, MCCPTA VP for Education presented the following motion:

That a letter from MCCPTA to the Board of Education be sent to express support for maintaining

Policy DBA, Budget Preparation and Procedure, as written and not have the Board of Education move to rescind it in the future

Several people spoke in favor of the motion. Paula Bienenfeld made an amendment to add the phrase "in the strongest language possible" between the word "express" and "support". The amendment was seconded. Lori Goodwin made a substitute amendment to change "in the strongest language possible" to "strong". The substitute amendment was seconded. A comment was made to leave discretion to the MCCPTA president in drafting the letter. The substitute amendment failed by a voice vote. The amendment failed by a voice vote. The motion then passed unanimously by a voice vote.

High School Exam Workgroup

Beth Kennington, Chair of the MCCPTA Grading and Reporting Committee, presented a motion on behalf of the grading and reporting committee.

MCCPTA does not support the draft recommendation of the High School final Exam Workgroup, which would replace the second semester final exam in MCPS AP/IB/CIE classes with locally developed end-of course culminating activity/assessment that would count as 25% of the semester grade.

The motion is only presented at this meeting. Delegates are asked to discuss it at their local PTA meetings and in preparation for a vote on it at next month's Delegate Assembly.

MCPS Operating Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2009

Jane de Winter noted that the MCCPTA officers attended several six area meetings over the summer where local PTA leaders shared their issues. Based on those meetings the MCCPTA Officers made a list of all the issues. From that list which was included the Delegates folders, the MCCPTA Board of Directors proposed a list of Operating Budget Priorities. MCCPTA has been invited to participate in the MCPS budget planning meetings as the MCPS puts together its operating budget. Jane de Winter and Kay Romero will attend 30 hours of meetings in the next few weeks.

Jane de Winter presented the following Resolution on MCCPTA's FY2009 Operating Budget Priorities

Whereas, MCCPTA's mission is to speak for children and without question our highest budget

priority is education;

Be it resolved that the MCCPTA Delegates approve the following operating budget priorities for

the organization to concentrate on this budget year.

- Staff Development and Teacher Improvement,
- Local school based Parent Community Outreach Coordinators,
- School Guidance Counselors,
- Transportation,
- Gang Prevention and Intervention, and
- Remediation and Support for all students who need it.

The Technology Committee and the Safety Committee will be offering amendments to add additional priorities. Linda White, Chair of the MCCPTA Technology Committee will offer the following proposed amendment

That MCCPTA add to its budget priorities more support for improved local school web sites.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Update

There is a CIP Forum scheduled for October 30 for all PTA presidents, cluster coordinators and facilities chairs. Jane de Winter and Steve Augustino, Chair, Capital Improvement Program Committee (CIP) will be attending meetings with MCPS over the next couple of weeks as the MCPS CIP budget is being prepared.

Calendar Committee

Stacy Menendez and Patti Twigg have been selected to represent MCCPTA on the committee MCPS holds to craft next year's school calendar. There were a number of issues that people have raised regarding the calendar. Based on feedback they received from over the listserv, the committee has made a list of the four most popular issues. They were:

- Starting the school year on Tuesday, with Monday designated for Open Houses for the Schools
- The day before Thanksgiving should be a half-day
- Plan calendar out further than 9 months and longer notification time—Possibly plan for the next 2 years and/or notification of the next calendar sent out early in the fall.
- Shorten the MCPS calendar in June for unused snow days (up to 4 days currently built into the calendar)

Since the next meeting of the calendar committee is this week, they asked that delegates vote to prioritize these issues by filling out a survey distributed at the meeting.

Committee Fair

Each committee chair gave a one minute description of their committees. After the meeting is concluded, the committee chairs will be available to answer more questions. The delegates were encouraged to gather information and consider joining one or more of the committees.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 pm.